



April 30, 2024

Honorable Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

As the Committee prepares to mark-up a new Farm Bill, the undersigned companies, cooperatives and organizations respectfully ask you to include language in your draft bill to expand the Healthy Fluid Milk Incentives Projects (HFMI) to include all varieties of fluid milk, as well as cheese and yogurt.

As you know, Congress authorized the HFMI in the 2018 Farm Bill (Sec. 4208 of P.L. 115-334) to increase milk consumption among participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Over the past five years, Congress has appropriated \$12 million to fund over 700 HFMI pilots in 19 states, with more pilots in additional states expected to be launched before the end of the calendar year.

The next Farm Bill provides the perfect opportunity to utilize the learnings from these pilots to ensure that the HFMI program better meets the nutritional needs of more SNAP families. As you know, the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) have repeatedly recommended dairy products, particularly milk, cheese, and yogurt, as a core component of a healthy eating pattern. Unfortunately, 90% of Americans still do not consume enough dairy to meet the DGA recommendations. Providing a broader milk and dairy product consumption incentive could help bridge this gap for SNAP families. A recent IDFA/Morning Consult poll found that a majority of federal nutrition program participants would purchase more nutritious dairy products if they were provided with a financial incentive.

Representatives Jim Costa and Nick Langworthy, along with 9 other Republicans and Democrats on the Committee, have cosponsored legislation (H.R. 5099) to extend the current HFMI incentives to all varieties of fluid milk, cheese and yogurt which would increase SNAP participants' access to nutrient-rich dairy. Currently, only non-fat and low-fat unflavored milk are eligible for the incentive even though all milk, cheese and yogurt contain the same protein and essential minerals, vitamins and other nutrients. Broadening the current incentive to include additional nutritious dairy products will provide SNAP participants with more options to achieve healthier dietary outcomes for themselves and their families.

Mr. Chairman, we would respectfully request that you include provisions from H.R. 5099 in your draft Farm Bill that would expand the current SNAP milk incentive program to include all



varieties of fluid milk, as well as nutritious cheese and yogurt products, and allow continued appropriations of these dairy incentive projects.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter.

Sincerely, the undersigned dairy companies and suppliers,

cc: Honorable David Scott, Ranking Member, House Committee on Agriculture
Honorable Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition
Honorable John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Nutrition